

SUDBURY URBAN DISTRICT

OR

BOROUGH OF SUDBURY.

IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1909.

(Pursuant to the Regulations of the Local Government Board and of the West Suffolk County Council)

Population 1881, 6,592. Population 1891, 7,059. Population 1901, 7,109.

Acreage 2,093. Number inhabited houses 1,596. Average number of persons per house 4.4

Physical site, Valley of the Stour, in the upper Chalk formation, covered with drift sands, gravels and brick earth, derived from the boulder clay of general plateau.

The following vital statistics are compiled from the returns received from the District Registrar, and the Notification of Zymotic Diseases.

BIRTHS.

There were 98 births registered during the year, equivalent to a birth-rate of 13.6 per thousand of the population. This is the lowest number of births yet recorded in my annual reports. The births and birth-rates in the borough during the previous seven years were :

			1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Births	...	...	155	159	138	134	140	139	114	98
Birth-rate	...	...	20.5	22.3	19.4	18.8	19.7	19.5	15.8	13.6

The average for the last ten years was 150 or 21.1 per thousand.

The birth-rate for 1909 in England and Wales was 24.8.

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths from all causes registered in the district was 141, from which 37 deaths in the Workhouse and St. Leonard's Hospital of non-residents have to be subtracted, leaving the actual deaths at 104 equivalent to a death-rate of 14.4 per thousand of the population. The deaths and death-rates during the previous seven years were :—

			1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths registered	...	...	138	143	140	146	115	142	155	141
Deaths belonging to the district	...	...	114	121	111	110	90	107	112	104
Death-rate	...	...	15.7	17.0	15.6	15.4	12.6	14.8	15.5	14.4

The average for the last ten years was 112 or 15.8 per thousand.

The death-rate for 1909 in England and Wales was 14.5.

The following table shows the relative age mortality among residents :—

Deaths	...	Under 1 year	1 to 5 years	5 to 15 years	15 to 25 years	25 to 65 years	Over 65 years
		4	6	1	5	31	57

Among the 57 deaths over 65 years, were 22 over the age of 80 years.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

There were 4 deaths of children under one year of age, the lowest recorded in the Borough. The practical instructions given to many mothers by the maternity nurse, on the care and feeding of infants, should do much to reduce the infantile death-rate, and so to a considerable extent counter-balance the decline in the birth-rate. The notification of Births Act, 1907, is not adopted.

The following is the record for the previous seven years : --

	1902.	1903.	1904.	1905.	1906.	1907.	1908.	1909.
Deaths of children under one year	21	15	19	13	15	16	8	4
Rate per 1000 of births registered	130.0	94.3	137.6	97.0	107.1	115.0	70.0	40.8

For 1909 in England and Wales it was 109.

ZYMOTIC DEATHS.

During the year 3 deaths were registered, all being due to Scarlet Fever. Two of these were adults in whom fatal complications occurred, and the third was that of a delicate child aged 3 years. The zymotic death-rate for the previous seven years was as follows : --

1902	1903	1904	1905	1906	1907	1908	1909
0.6	1.4	0.9	0.1	0.4	0.2	0.1	0.4

For 1909 in England and Wales it was 1.08

DEATHS FROM TUBERCULOSIS.

This disease in its various forms caused 9 deaths during the year; 5 of these were pulmonary, one occurring in the Workhouse.

Disinfection and cleaning of houses, bedding and clothes are always attended to, after a death from Phthisis.

DEATHS FROM OTHER CAUSES.

Among these were 14 deaths from Bronchitis and Pneumonia, 6 from Cancer, 12 from Heart Diseases, and 2 from Accidents.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFICATION.

There were 51 notifications received during the year, of Scarlet Fever 48, Diphtheria 1, and Erysipelas 2. The following is the record of the previous seven years :

	Small Pox	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Puerperal Fever	Erysipelas	Total	Per 1000 of population.
1902	0	3	1	3	0	6	13	1.8
1903	0	8	0	2	1	8	19	2.6
1904	0	61	6	1	0	1	69	9.6
1905	0	46	2	2	2	6	57	8.0
1906	0	5	3	1	0	2	11	1.5
1907	0	32	1	0	0	5	38	5.2
1908	0	25	0	0	0	4	29	4.0
1909	0	48	1	0	0	2	51	7.0

The following are particulars of the Zymotic Disease which occurred :—

SCARLET FEVER.

This disease was present in the town at the beginning of the year and continued to crop up in odd cases all through the year, though never at any time prevalent, nor affecting school attendances. The type of the disease was generally so mild, that in the early stage, several cases escaped recognition, and may have infected others, though when notified and isolated the spread was arrested. Of the 48 cases which occurred 35 were treated in the Isolation Hospital. All houses affected, 39 in number, were at once disinfected on the removal or recovery of patient; home cases were supplied with eucalyptus oil and disinfectants with instructions.

DIPHTHERIA.

The one case which occurred was that of a child who recovered. Antitoxin was used. No sanitary defects could be found on inspection of the house and premises.

ERYSIPELAS.

The two cases notified were elderly people and the attacks were not of insanitary origin.

ZYMOTICS NOT NOTIFIABLE.

With the exception of a few cases of Whooping Cough, the town was quite free of any of these diseases.

THE PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1908.

This came into operation last year and brings all cases of Phthisis, occurring under the Poor Law, to be inspected as to sanitary conditions. 4 cases were notified, and were visited and kept under observation. 2 of the cases died during the year

ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This Hospital was of the greatest use during the year in checking the spread of Scarlet Fever. 35 cases were admitted, 5 of whom were adults. All did well and made good recoveries, except one adult, who died a few hours after removal to the Hospital. As it is necessary in towns to have an Isolation Hospital it is time that this temporary one should be replaced by a permanent and more up-to-date Hospital.

SCHOOLS, ELEMENTARY.

There are three schools, all in good sanitary condition, with town water supply. They have playgrounds attached. The action taken to prevent the spread of infectious disease, is, on receiving notification

of such, to exclude all children from infected houses, until disinfected. In cases of scarlet fever, to examine in the school, every child who has lately been absent. With respect to measles; as this disease is generally confined to the infant classes, if it becomes prevalent these classes are closed. The Medical Inspection of school children is done by a whole time officer.

THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL.

This school, founded in 1491, has now been taken over by the West Suffolk County Council as a Secondary School, and in order to bring it up to the required educational standard there has been erected a new class room and a laboratory.

HOUSES.

There were 9 new houses which completed their erection during the year, and have been inspected. Two cases of overcrowding came under notice and were abated, one by the reduction of residents, and the other a family, removed out of the borough.

There are no proper building bye-laws in force, though such are required to be adopted. The house accommodation for the working classes is generally good and adequate, with sufficient air space, though in the old parts of the town there are a few yards and alleys with defective houses. Under the New Housing and Town Planning Act, 1909, which now comes into force, inspection is being made, and a list of houses with any structural or sanitary defects will be submitted to the Council. There is a large amount of allotment ground available for the working classes.

WATER SUPPLY.

The Town Waterworks maintained a continuous supply throughout the year.

The systematic inspection and repair of taps and fittings has continued to prove effective in preventing water waste.

The rainfall during the year as registered by Edward Ransom, Esq., was 26.08 inches, fully 3 inches above the average, and floods were frequent in the Valley Meadows.

The following is the report of the Borough Surveyor and Inspector of Nuisances :—

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A fair standard of effluent has been maintained throughout the year from the outfall works, of the bacteriological sewage installation. A second coarse contact bed has been thoroughly washed out, and the capacity restored to its original amount. A fine contact bed is now in process of cleaning.

The storm water filter bed is being filled with graded clinker from the Refuse Destructor, and is used to treat the excess of water which arises during periods of storm.

The Refuse Destructor continues to work very satisfactorily. New arches have been built to the stoking doors of both cells, and the fire bridges rebuilt.

SEWERS AND DRAINS.

These have been regularly inspected and flushed during the year. The complaints as to smells from manholes have decreased. Most of the complaints received as to blockages in drains have been found to be due to the insufficiency of hand flushing; very few cases occur where flushing cisterns are provided.

The public convenience in Chequer Lane has been largely used during the year, the receipts from the slot lock amounting to £1 18s. 9d.

HOUSE REFUSE.

The collection of house refuse has been arranged on a systematic basis, which is adhered to as closely as possible. The numerous types of receptacles with their varying capacities, hinder to a great extent the regularity of collection: this would be greatly facilitated, if each house was provided with a proper receptacle and movable cover.

The total number of loads removed during the year amounted to 1435.

HOUSE TO HOUSE INSPECTION.

Since the commencement of this inspection three years ago, up to the end of this year 1386 houses have been inspected, leaving about 200 to 250 more houses to be visited.

The following is a statement of the number of notices, inspections, &c., made during the year :—

Number of written notices sent out, respecting defects and nuisances	115
Additional premises provided with Town water	10
Additional Closets provided with flushing cisterns	12
Number of houses and premises connected with the sewers, or redrained	30
Number of new houses completed	9
Number of houses disinfected	39
Number of schools disinfected	0
Number of house to house inspections	127
Number of nuisances abated	57
Number of slaughter-house inspections	75
Number of dairies and cowsheds inspections	20
Number of pigstyes inspected	15
Number of bakehouses inspected	12
Number of cases overcrowding abated	2

W. I. TAIT, A.M.I.C.E.,

Surveyor and Inspector.

SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are 19 Slaughter Houses in the Borough: of these 10 are fully licensed, and 9 for pigs only. These are inspected monthly during the year.

LODGING HOUSES.

There are 2 registered Common Lodging Houses, which have been at intervals visited. No breach of the regulations was found.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

As many Workshops have of late adopted mechanical power in the form of gas engines, they are included among Factories. which now number 29. Workshops and work-places in the register number 78. This includes 19 bakehouses. All have undergone inspection and have sufficient sanitary conveniences. Where persons of both sexes are employed, separate accommodation is provided, in accordance with Section 22 of the Public Health (amendment) Act.

All Factories employing over 40 workers have made reasonable provision in respect of safety from fire.

The list of out-workers received show 41 in number. No complaints have been received during the year from H.M. Inspector of Factories.

BAKEHOUSES.

There are 19 bakehouses. No breaches of regulations were found when visited. There are no underground bakehouses in the town.

DAIRIES AND COWSHEDS.

There are 20 cowkeepers in the district who have cowsheds and dairies and are purveyors of milk. All the cows are grass grazed. The Model Regulations, 1905, which were adopted in August, 1906, are in force. Visits of inspection have been made and the general condition of the dairies, cowsheds and milk shops was found to be in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations in respect to lighting, ventilation, cleanliness, drainage and water supply. In one instance some defects were found which required alteration to drains.

THE CEMETERY.

For the last few years it has become very evident that the capacity for the Cemetery for the annual number of interments would soon reach its limit, and that an extension was necessary. This extension has been effected this year, by the purchase of five acres of adjacent ground, which is now enclosed and in progress of being laid out.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Systematic as well as constant special inspections have been made during the year, as embodied in this Report.

No legal proceedings were necessary during the year.

Tabular statements, according to the forms supplied by the Local Government Board, of the statistics of births, sickness and mortality within the districts are appended to the official reports.

J. SINCLAIR HOLDEN, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.